

Proceedings of the 10th International Congress
on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East
Volume 1

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and Teresa Bürge

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Barbara Horejs and Christoph Schwall

Archaeology of Religion & Ritual
Edited by Vera Müller

Images in Context: Agency, Audiences & Perception
Edited by Marta Luciani

Islamic Archaeology
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Foreword to the 10th ICAANE Proceedings

The 10th anniversary of the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East was held from 25th to 29th of April 2016 in Vienna, hosted and organized by the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. More than 800 participants from 38 different countries found their way to Vienna to celebrate the 10th anniversary of ICAANE with a wide range of 8 scientific sections, 28 workshops and round tables, a huge poster exhibition and a special section about ‘Cultural Heritage under Threat’.

The topics in focus of this ICAANE covered traditional, as well as new fields, in relation to state-of-the-art approaches and methodologies. The general themes of transformation and migration, cultural landscapes, religion and rituals, environmental shifts, contextualized images, as well as economies and societies, are currently promising fields in archaeology and these proceedings give new insights into former Near Eastern societies. These general questions are obviously challenging topics in present times, too, a fact that is leading us archaeologists into a dialectic discourse of past and present social phenomena. This additional impact within our scientific community and beyond is underlining the ongoing fascination and power of Near Eastern archaeology. The first volume includes papers of the sections ‘Transformation and Migration’, ‘Archaeology of Religion and Ritual’, ‘Images in Context’ as well as ‘Islamic Archaeology’. The second volume is dedicated to the sections ‘Prehistoric and Historical Landscapes and Settlement Patterns’, ‘Economy and Society’, and is completed by ‘Excavation Reports and Summaries’. A number of presented posters are integrated in the theme relevant chapters too. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the editors of these sections, namely Teresa Bürge, Mattia Guidetti, Felix Höflmayer, Marta Luciani, Vera Müller, Markus Ritter, Roderick Salisbury and Christoph Schwall.

Altogether 28 workshops focussing on special research questions and themes demonstrated the ongoing dynamic and new inputs in Near Eastern archaeology. The engaged discussions of internationally high-ranked experts with young scholars was essential for the success and open atmosphere of the 10th ICAANE in Vienna. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the workshop organisers, who are also acting as editors for the separate workshop volumes, published as internationally peer-reviewed books in the OREA series of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, of which some are already in print, accepted or in preparation at the moment. The conference was delighted to have two keynotes given by Mehmet Özdoğan and Timothy Harrison; both pointed to the current political conflicts and related massive destruction of cultural heritage from different perspectives. In facing the current conflicts and continuing damage of cultural monuments in regions of the Near East, we are confronted with situations going far beyond the usual scientific challenges. Although we have to observe highly frustrating ongoing destructions and can hardly influence the general political situation, the archaeological

community is responsible for supporting, re-evaluating and advancing ongoing essential strategies in digital preservation of the cultural heritage and other current activities in that field.

Therefore, we decided to organize a Special Section within the 10th ICAANE about *Cultural Heritage under Threat*, where well-known experts and political authorities discussed the current challenges and future perspectives in a very fruitful and open atmosphere.

This special section was organized with the great support of Harald Stranzl, the Austrian Ambassador at UNESCO for the Austrian Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. The discussions and contributions were accomplished by signing the ‘Vienna Statement’ (s. below) by a total of 34 authorities for antiquities in Near Eastern countries, European institutions and stakeholders. My sincere thanks are expressed to Karin Bartl and her engagement in organizing this special section.

The 10th ICAANE aside its impact on international archaeology, can additionally be seen as a powerful boost for the archaeological endeavours in Austria and for our local scientific community, not at least visible in the fruitful cooperation of several archaeological institutions acting committedly in our Local Organising Committee: the Historical-Cultural Faculty and the Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies (University of Vienna), the Egyptian and Near Eastern Collection of the Kunsthistorische Museum, the Austrian Archaeological Institute, members of the Austrian Academy of Sciences as well as the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology. My sincere thanks go to Manfred Bietak, Vera Müller, Hermann Hunger, Bert Fragner, Regina Hölzl, Claudia Theune-Vogt, Michael Doneus, Markus Ritter, Christiana Köhler, Marta Luciani, Sabine Ladstätter, Karin Kopetzky and Angela Schwab for their engagement in the local committee and making this conference real. I extend sincere thanks for financial support to several Austrian and international institutions, which are The Austrian Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, the University of Vienna, the City of Vienna, the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF), the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), the Austrian Orient Society/Hammer Purgstall Society and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

The OREA institute took over the honourable duty hosting this conference with lots of effort and energy, all our institutes’ members, students and scientists were involved in some parts and the OREA team together was making this conference running. Particular thanks and recognition also go to Angela Schwab, Ulrike Schuh and Christine de Vree. Finally, I thank the ICAANE Scientific Committee and the Harrassowitz Publishing House.

Prof. Dr. Barbara Horejs
Director of the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology
Austrian Academy of Sciences

TRANSFORMATION & MIGRATION

edited by B. Horejs and Ch. Schwall

Permanent or Seasonal? Evidence of Settlements in Late Chalcolithic Western Anatolia

*Christoph Schwall*¹ – *Barbara Horejs*¹

Abstract

Until recently, the Late Chalcolithic period has been one of the least researched periods in Western Anatolia. However, in the last few years the number of newly investigated sites has been increasing in this region. One of the major recent research debates is the question of whether settlements with differentiated societies and thus a more complex structure can be attested to some degree in Western Anatolia or not. New evidence regarding this topic is provided by the excavations at Çukuriçi Höyük, a tell settlement close to the central Western Anatolian coastline. During the excavations, settlements of the last centuries of the 4th millennium BC were recorded. These field investigations yielded different structures that can certainly be associated with a permanent settlement. In addition to a monumental ditch, several remains of dwellings consisting of stone socles with a wattle-and-daub superstructure were found at Çukuriçi Höyük. Moreover, installations such as drying platforms and storage facilities unearthed within the settlement contradict the assumption of a seasonal use settlement. Comparable evidence from other contemporaneous settlements in Western Anatolia and on the East Aegean Islands supports the existence of permanent settlements. Additionally, evidence of different specialized craft activities (i.e. metallurgy and textile production) indicates a type of organization of the settlement's inhabitants. Hints from other Late Chalcolithic sites in Western Anatolia draw a picture of the roots of dynamic processes that led finally to the emergence of Early Bronze Age 1 settlements. Regarding this point, the increasing degree of connectivity since the Middle and Late Chalcolithic periods seems to be a crucial factor for this development.

1. Western Anatolia and the question of permanent Late Chalcolithic settlements

As mentioned by various authors, researching the Middle (ca. 5500–4250 BC) and especially the Late Chalcolithic period (ca. 4250–3000 BC) in Western Anatolia (cf. Schoop 2005) has been problematic due to the lack of sites in this region. As shown on the maps published by U.-D. Schoop (2005: pl. 1; 2011a: 158, fig. 7.3; 161, fig. 7.4) and B. Düring (2011a: 201, fig. 6.1; 2011b: 798, fig. 36.1), in particular the central Western Anatolian region has been insufficiently investigated. In both studies the region of the East Aegean islands, apart from Chios and Samos, is mainly excluded. However, a view of the neighbouring regions is essential for the understanding of regional and supra-regional contacts and cultural influences.

Düring has argued that ‘ephemeral settlements’ have to be assumed in Western Anatolia, especially considering the lack of features characterizing ‘complex villag-

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es' like 'public buildings' and 'defensive structures' (Düring 2011b: 803). Therefore, these settlements have to be seen as seasonally occupied and have to be connected to a *mobile way of life* (Düring 2011a: 254).

Nevertheless, from today's point of view, data for these nebulous periods has been increasing in the last years (cf. Horejs and Schwall 2015; Schwall in press). A new survey on excavated sites revealed that at present, 69 Middle and/or Late Chalcolithic sites attested by trial or extensive excavations have been published so far in Western Anatolia, on the East Aegean islands, on the Dodecanese and in Turkish Thrace (Fig. 1). Several new sites were located especially during the past two decades in the central Western Anatolian coastal region. Assessing these new data in detail, the results contradict Düring's proposed *mobile way of life* and suggest that permanent settlements with a spatial inner organization and specialized craft activities were already detectable in Late Chalcolithic Western Anatolia at least as an additional 'living concept'. For this interpretation, the recently conducted excavations at the settlement of Çukuriçi Höyük provide important information that should be discussed in detail.

2. Evidence from Late Chalcolithic Çukuriçi Höyük

The tell settlement Çukuriçi Höyük is located at the central Western Anatolian coastline in the southern vicinity of the ancient city of Ephesos. Based on the reconstruction of the prehistoric coastline, Çukuriçi Höyük can be defined as a coastal site (Fig. 2; cf. Stock 2015; Stock *et al.* 2015).

Large parts of the tell settlement were dug away in the course of agricultural use of the area (cf. Evren and İçten 1998: 112–113; 126, fig. 3; Evren 1999: 22–23, figs. 1–2; Horejs 2008: 92; Horejs *et al.* 2011: 37). Based on palaeogeographic studies, a former settlement size of 200 to 100 meters can be assumed (cf. Stock *et al.* 2015; Stock 2015). In total, the mound consists of 8.5 meters of settlement layers, which date from the 7th to the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC (Horejs 2016: 143–144; Horejs 2017: 17, fig. 1.5).

The Late Chalcolithic period at Çukuriçi Höyük is represented by the settlement phases ÇuHö VII to Vb. Sub-phase ÇuHö Va belongs to the beginning of the Early Bronze Age. This is clearly shown by 31 short-lived radiocarbon dates, which range between 3350 and 2950 calBC and therefore attest to a continuous occupation of the site from the final centuries of the Late Chalcolithic and the very beginning of the Early Bronze Age 1 period in Western Anatolia (cf. Schwall in press: chapter IV.1.4.).

The Late Chalcolithic settlement remains were attested in the northern (N1–4 and N7) and middle (M1) trenches. In trench M1, the occupation layers were partially covered by the north-south aligned settlement structures of the extended Early Bronze Age 1 settlement phase ÇuHö IV (Fig. 3).

The oldest Late Chalcolithic settlement (ÇuHö VII) was surrounded by a huge ditch measuring 6 m in width and 2.5 m in depth. Focusing on this large construction

in particular, it is rather unlikely that the ditch, with a presumed function as a defensive structure, was built for a seasonal purpose.

Furthermore, indications of a permanent settlement are also recognizable in the architecture, which has been excavated in detail in both sub-phases (b and a) of the younger settlements ÇuHö VI and V in trench M1 (cf. Fig. 4). The architecture is represented by solid stone socle walls with wattle-and-daub superstructures. Besides linear wall sections (ÇuHö VIb, Z-AA/58–59), in sub-phase ÇuHö VIa a presumably rectangular (RH 1) building measuring at least 8.1 m in length and 3.4 m in width was unearthed. Close to this building, a ‘stone row structure’ (SR 3) consisting of single rows of stones was excavated. These types of constructions with flat stone slabs situated upon the stone rows are much better preserved in sub-phase ÇuHö Vb (SR 1 and 2). Charred remains found in the context of these installations indicate that a wooden platform was placed upon the stones. A function of these stone row platforms for drying fruit is attested by numerous burned figs and grape seeds in between the rows and in the surroundings of the structures. Due to the distance between the ground and the platform, the fruit were protected against moisture and, moreover, the circulation of air aids the drying process. In the direct vicinity of these structures, food preparation took place as shown by evidence of stone tools like mortars, pounders and grinding stones.

These platforms can be seen in the context of organized storage facilities represented by circular buildings measuring 4.0m and 3.1m in inner diameter unearthed in both sub-phases of settlement ÇuHö V (RB 1 and 2; cf. Fig. 4). Inside and outside these buildings, sherds of large vessels, presumably storage vessels, and again a high amount of carbonized figs, grape seeds and other botanical remains were found, which allow an interpretation of these circular structures as storage buildings. The roof construction of the circular buildings at Çukuriçi Höyük, whether conical or flat, is unclear and must remain an open question. Interestingly, in sub-phase ÇuHö Va an area with a circular building (RB 2) as well as a platform (SR 4) was surrounded by a massive wall and indicates an area with a distinct function within the settlement. Despite the lack of such a wall in the earlier sub-phase ÇuHö Vb, a comparable function of the area can be assumed in this sub-phase as well. Therefore, also the remains of the Late Chalcolithic settlement ÇuHö Vb suggest that already at the end of the 4th millennium BC a possible communal area within the settlement was used for drying and storing food and therefore indicates surplus production as well as a kind of spatial organization of the entire settlement structure.

3. Evidence from Late Chalcolithic Western Anatolia and the East Aegean islands

In general, indications for storage facilities and storing of food can be traced already in the Middle Chalcolithic period and increased especially during the Late Chalcolithic period in Western Anatolia and the East Aegean. It is beyond the scope of

this paper and not possible to present an extended discussion of the evidence of the Middle and Late Chalcolithic period in detail (for this see Schwall in press: chapter VI.2.). In this contribution we want to focus on remains contemporaneous with Çukuriçi Höyük and to assess this evidence.

Parallels for small-scale circular buildings with a similar interpretation are known from the neighbouring site Bakla Tepe, as well as from the sites Poliochni and Myrina on the East Aegean island of Lemnos (cf. Horejs and Schwall 2015: 463; Schwall in press: chapter IV.2.3.).

Besides these buildings, comparable platforms with ‘stone row structures’ have also been detected inside and outside of houses at Bakla Tepe (Erkanal and Özkan 1999: 130–134, 196, figs. 35–36; Şahoğlu and Tuncel 2014: 68–70, figs. 4–5). Further evidence was recently excavated at Liman Tepe (Erkanal *et al.* 2016: 331–332, 339, fig. 8; Erkanal *et al.* 2017: 135, 147, fig. 2) and is, moreover, known from the central Anatolian site Çamlıbel Tarlası² (Schoop 2010: 192–194, figs. 49, 51; Schoop 2015: 51–52). In all cases a function of these structures related to storage facilities and the protection of the stored items against the humidity of the ground is assumed by several authors (cf. Kouka 2002: 40, Ann. 225; Şahoğlu and Tuncel 2014: 68; Schoop 2010: 192; Schoop 2015: 51).

As already pointed out regarding the architectural patterns of Western Anatolia and on the East Aegean islands, different types of domestic architecture can be defined: rectangular buildings, elliptic/apsidal buildings, circular buildings and stone row structures (Horejs and Schwall 2015: 464, fig. 7; Schwall in press: chapter IV.2.), which are all attested at Late Chalcolithic Çukuriçi Höyük (a curvilinear structure was excavated in trench N1; cf. Horejs 2008: 97). Regarding the distribution of these architectural types, it is apparent that rectangular buildings are common in Western Anatolia and on the East Aegean Islands. In contrast, elliptic and circular buildings show an affinity to the maritime region, represented by sites in the coastal region and the East Aegean. Except for the parallels from Çamlıbel Tarlası, also the domestic platforms seem to follow this pattern.³ This clearly shows that the increasing evidence of architectural types, which are related to the storage of food, are attested in this region and emphasizes finally the presence of intentional surplus production within the Late Chalcolithic settlements.

2 It is important to note that besides a seasonal occupation of the site in the course of metal production, stationary settlement episodes are assumed (Schoop 2011b: 65).

3 At first glance the distance between the Central and Western Anatolian sites with such constructions seems to be astonishing, but also apsidal buildings were detected at Çadır Höyük not that far away from Çamlıbel Tarlası dating around the middle of the 4th millennium BC (Şerifoğlu *et al.* 2014: 85–86, 95, fig. 2; Steadman *et al.* 2015: 89–92, figs. 2–3). The existence of ‘alien’ appearing architectural forms could probably be explained by cultural influence of the Western Anatolian coastal region.

4. Increasing connectivity as key for the establishment of permanent settlements?

Due to the growing data provided by several excavations during the last years, there are more indications – besides architectural patterns and intentional surplus production of food – contradicting Düring's generally proposed assumption of a *mobile way of life* and leading to the conclusion that more complex and stable communities, which were part of an extended interaction sphere, must be expected for Western Anatolia in the 4th millennium BC.

In general, especially the coastal zones seem to be a crucial factor for the development of communication and exchange networks. Already during the 5th millennium BC, supra-regional trans-Aegean connections are attested by a technological aspect in the use of mats for the production of ceramics (cf. Horejs and Schwall in press; Schwall in press: chapter V.2.2.). Interestingly, the distribution of mat-impressed pottery shows that nearly all sites have a direct or indirect connection to the Aegean. This shows impressively the high degree of connectivity of this maritime region, which has the function as a distributor of goods and knowledge. Therefore, already during the Middle Chalcolithic period the emergence of a far-reaching communication and exchange network is clearly detectable.

Additionally, within the Aegean and Western Anatolian region evidence of specialized craft activities, in particular metallurgy and textile production, are increasing since the 5th millennium BC with an intensification recognizable especially during the 4th millennium BC (cf. Mehofer 2014: 468–471, fig. 4; Alram-Stern 2014: 316–318, fig. 8; Schoop 2014: 429–434, figs. 1–3).

Beside specialized crafts, the procurement of Melian obsidian (Schwall in press: chapter VI.1.1.) as well as the distribution of Kiliya type figurines (Schwall and Horejs 2017: 58–59, fig. 3.6; Schwall in press: chapter IV.5.4.) show that the Middle and Late Chalcolithic settlements in Western Anatolia were part of a broader communication and exchange network. The 'Chalcolithic interaction sphere', which emerged during this time, had built an essential basis for the further development in the following 3rd millennium BC and precursors the later cultural koine of the northern and eastern Aegean Islands defined by O. Kouka (2002: 295–302) and the Eastern Mediterranean interaction sphere according to L. Rahmstorf (2006: 81–82, fig. 18) of the Early Bronze Age 2 period.

Thus, especially the new evidence from Çukuriçi Höyük and other settlements in the central western Anatolian coastal region suggest that a differentiated settlement structure is already detectable during the Late Chalcolithic Period. This is shown by several types of evidence: permanent settlements with solid architecture (in case of Çukuriçi Höyük additionally a ditch) and a spatial inner organization, intentional surplus production and storing of food, specialized crafts as well as stable communication and exchange systems (Horejs 2014: 33–35, fig. 12; Schwall in press: chapter VI.). In our opinion this process led to the formation of communities with regional power at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age.

Acknowledgements

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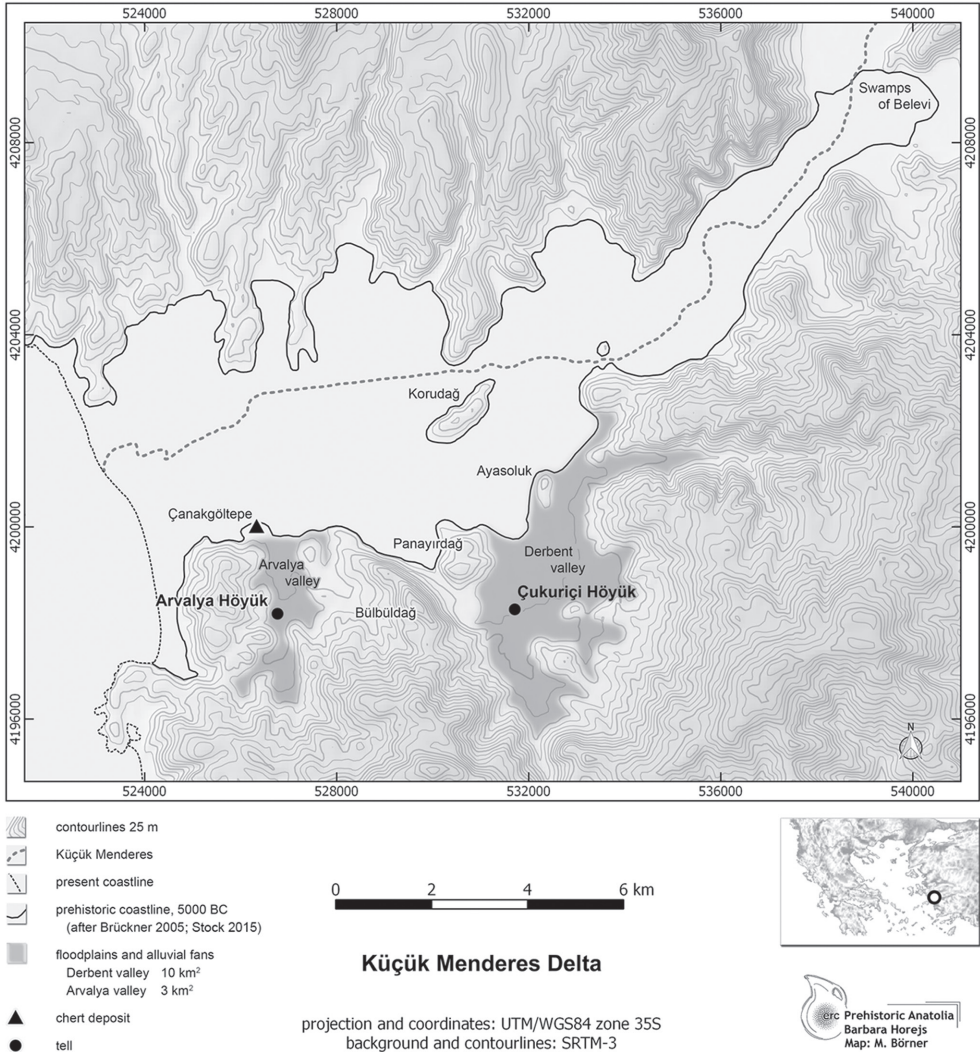


Fig. 2 The reconstructed prehistoric landscape of the Küçük Menderes delta with the prehistoric sites Çukuriçi Höyük and Arvalya Höyük (Map: M. Börner/ERC Prehistoric Anatolia)

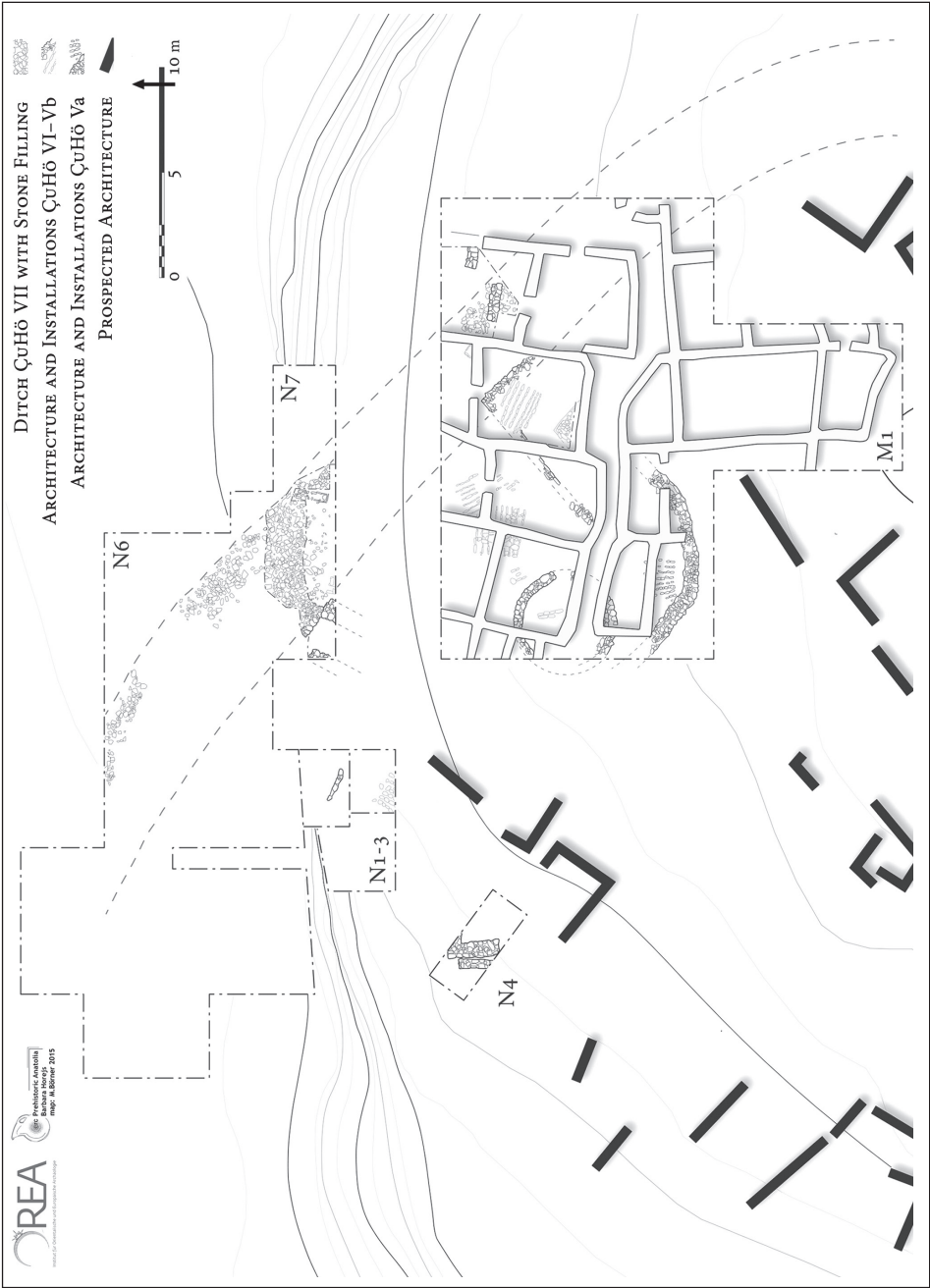


Fig. 3 Plan of the architectural remains of the Late Chalcolithic settlement phases ÇuHö VII-V (Plan: M. Börner/ERC Prehistoric Anatolia)

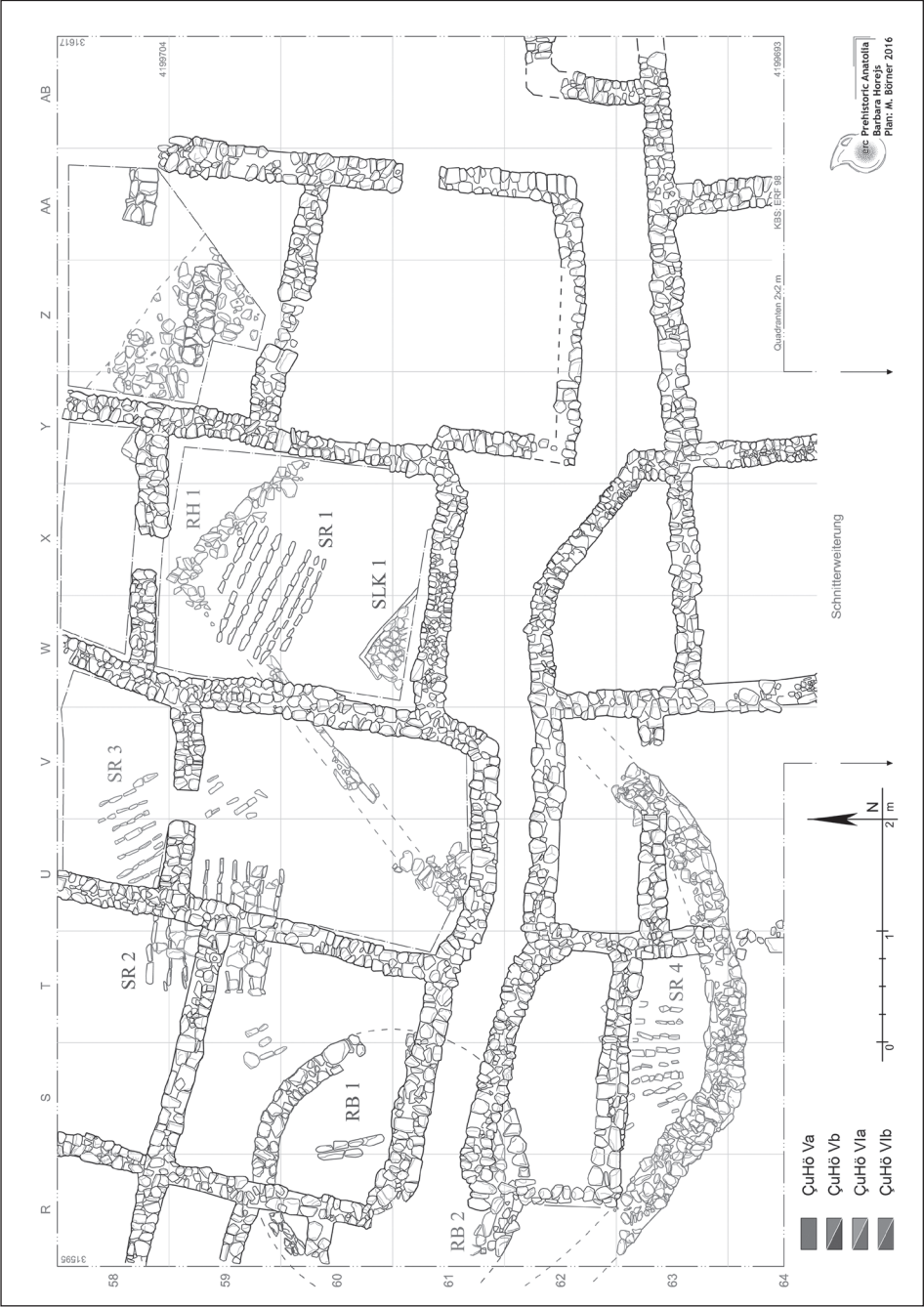


Fig. 4 Plan of the excavated remains of settlement phases ÇuHö VI–V in trench M1 (Plan: M. Börner/ERC Prehistoric Anatolia)